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Message Text

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O 101620Z NOV 73 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 371

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN BEIRUT TEL AVIV
USUN FROM CAIRO NOV 10

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3471

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG US
SUBJECT: REACTION TO SECRETARY'S VISIT AND US CEASEFIRE
PLAN: NOVEMBER 10

1. FRONT PAGE AND EDITORIAL CONTENT OF NOVEMBER 10 CAIRO PRESS INDICATES EXISTENCE OF CONFLICTING VIEWS WITHIN GOE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION. AHRAM CARRIES DETAILS OF SIX-POINT KISSINGER CEASEFIRE PLAN, AND SETS FORTH IN CENTER OF PAGE ONE STATEMENT BY UNNAMED FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TO EFFECT THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN IS CONSIDERED "FIRST STEP" TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF REST OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION AIMED AT ACHIEVING PEACE. AHRAM CONTINUES THAT ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL CIRCLES IN CAIRO, ISRAEL HAS PLACED OBSTACLES IN WAY OF AGREEMENT AND ADDS THAT BAB EL MANDAB QUESTION "WAS NEVER MENTIONED FROM THE BEGINNING;" MOREOVER, ANY ATTEMPT TO ADD NEW ARTICLES IS CONSIDERED A WASTE OF TIME OR
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AN ATTEMPT TO IMPEDE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT.

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2. AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA HAVE SIMILAR COVERAGE, BUT AKHBAR ADDS THAT PEACE CONFERENCE IS PLANNED TO BE HELD WITHIN 20 DAYS.

3. AHRAM WARNS IN EDITORIAL THAT KISSINGER'S WORD IS NOT ENOUGH TO ASSURE EGYPT THAT HE CAN RESIS PRO-ISRAELI PRESSURES IN US CONGRESS AND PRESS. THEREFORE, "THE STRENGTH OF ANY AGREEMENT WITH KISSINGER DWELLS NOT IN HIS PLEDGES OR GUARANTEES, BUT IN THE PRESSURES WHICH ARABS CAN BRING TO BEAR ON AMERICAN INTERESTS." EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT PRESSURES MUST BE INCREASED; THAT MILITARY ALERT SHOULD BE KEPT AT MAXIMUM; THAT ARABS SHOULD TIGHTEN COORDINATION AND ACCENTUATE THE USE OF OIL AS A WEAPON. FINALLY, ARABS SHOULD DEEPEN THEIR COOPERATION WITH USSR. (COMMENT: EDITORIAL TAKES MUCH THE SAME LINE THAT HEYKAL DID YESTERDAY, AND MAY WELL HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY HEYKAL HIMSELF. AMONG THOSE MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN ESTABLISHMENT WHOSE VIEWS ARE VISIBLE, HEYKAL HAS TAKEN A HAWKISH POSITION.)

4. AKHBAR'S QUDDUS STATES THAT KISSINGER'S MISSION TO EGYPT WAS UNDERTAKEN WITH FOLLOWING THOUGHTS IN MIND: (A) TO STABILIZE CEASEFIRE SINCE RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING WOULD INVOLVE US; (B) NECESSITY OF REACHING A SOLUTION BECAUSE CEASEFIRE CANNOT CONTINUE FOR LONG; (C) ELIMINATION OF ARAB OIL BOYCOTT OF US. QUDDUS ADDS THATE EGYPT IS DOUBTFUL OF US AND ISRAELI GOOD WILL FOLLOWING, RPT FOLLOWING, WITHDRAWAL FROM OCTOBER 22 LINES; AND THAT OCTOBER 22 LINES, WITH ISRAEL HOLDING DEVERSOIR, IS NOT ENOUGH TO BEGIN SERIOUS NEGOTIATION. QUDDUS STATES THAT "FIRST STEP" TOWARD PEACE CONFERENCE MUST BE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO DEPTH OF SINAI.

5. COMMENT: GENERAL TONE OF PRESS COVERAGE IS LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN NOVEMBER 9 AND MORE INCLINED TOWARD AN ENTRENCHMENT OF VIEW THAT ISRAELI PROCRASTINATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT WILL HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.
SMITH
UNQUOTE RUSH

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